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10/669,182

09/23/2003

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96982-00002

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08/06/2004

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EXAMINER

FIGUEROA, FELIX O

ART UNIT

PAPER NUMBER

2833

DATE MAILED: 08/06/2004

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/669,182

Applicant(s)

BROWN, DONALD C.

Examiner

Felix O. Figueroa

Art Unit

2833

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☐ Responsive to communication(s) filed on ____.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-27 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) ____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) ____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-27 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) ____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) ____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 9/23/03 is/are: a) ☒ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
- ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 - ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. ____.
 - ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|---|---|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s)/Mail Date. ____. |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152) |
| 3) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08) Paper No(s)/Mail Date <u>12/24/03</u> . | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: ____. |

DETAILED ACTION

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

Claims 1-5, 8-12, 14-20 and 22-27 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Magnifico et al. (US 4,749,365).

Magnifico discloses an insulation stripping connector for providing an electrical connection to a wire, comprising a body (10); a pair of outer legs (11) extending away from the body in a first direction, each of the outer legs having a first end attached to the body and a second end (at 15) distal to the body; and a pair of inner legs (12) extending toward the body in a second direction, which is generally opposite the first direction, to form wire slot (18) there-between, each of the inner legs being joined to a corresponding one of the outer legs at the second end thereof, and each of the inner legs terminating at a free end (not labeled in Fig.1) which is spaced from the body and from the outer legs, each of the inner legs and each of the outer legs being sufficiently flexible in order to enable the wire slot to open in response to the insertion of a wire into the wire slot (col.2, lines 49-52), at least one of the outer legs being notched (at 22) in the vicinity of the first end thereof so as to increase the flexibility of the at least one of the outer legs (please note that the notch 22 allows an amount of flexibility to the outer

legs), thereby enabling the wire slot to open wider in order to accommodate a large range of wire sizes.

Regarding claim 2, Magnifico discloses both outer legs being notched.

Regarding claim 3, Magnifico discloses the outer legs having an inboard side opposite and an outboard side, the inboard side proximate to the wire slot.

Regarding claim 8, Magnifico discloses the body, the inner legs and the outer legs form a cutout (at 22) that separates each of the inner legs from the body and from its the corresponding one of the outer legs.

Regarding claim 9, Magnifico discloses the cutout has a first branch that separates the free ends of the inner legs from the body, and second and third branches that extend generally perpendicular from the first branch and terminate at ends distal from the first branch, the second branch separating one of the inner legs from its the corresponding one of the outer legs, and the third branch separating the other of its the inner legs from the corresponding one of the outer legs.

Regarding claim 10, Magnifico discloses the first branch terminates at one end in the form of a first notch (16) formed in the inboard side of one of the outer legs and at another end in the form of a second notch (16) formed in the inboard side of the other of the outer legs, whereby the flexibility of both of the outer legs is increased.

Regarding claim 12, Magnifico discloses barrier means (between 21), extending from the body towards the free ends of the inner legs, for inhibiting a wire from passing completely through the wire slot.

Regarding claims 23 and 24, Magnifico discloses one of the inner legs is joined its the corresponding one of the outer legs at a first common span (15), and the other of the inner legs is joined to its the corresponding one of the outer legs at a second common span (15); and the first and second common spans are sized and shaped to form a gap entry there-between, the entry gap being sized and shaped to receive a wire during an insertion procedure.

Regarding claims 25 and 26, Magnifico discloses the first common span has a first coined (at14) area located proximate to the entry gap, and the second common span has a second coined area (at 14) located proximate to the entry gap, the first and second coined areas cooperating with each other to strip off insulation from a wire which is being inserted in the wire slot; and wherein the first coined area has a first cutter for stripping off insulation from a wire and the second coined area has a second cutter for stripping off insulation from a wire.

Regarding claim 27, Magnifico discloses each of the inner legs has an inboard side proximate to the wire slot, and a transition point (below 14) located on the inboard side at an end distal from the free end thereof, the transition point of one of the inner legs cooperating with the transition point of the other of the inner legs to strip off insulation from a wire which is being inserted in the wire slot.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the

invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which the subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

Claims 6 and 7 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Magnifico in view of Weidler et al. (US 4,553,808).

Magnifico discloses substantially the claimed invention except for the notches on the outer side. Weidler teaches the use of notches on the outer sides (see Fig.1) in order to control the width and rigidity of the legs. Therefore, it would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to form the outer legs of Magnifico with notches on the outer sides, as taught by Weidler, to control the width and rigidity of the legs.

Claim 13 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Magnifico.

Magnifico discloses substantially the claimed invention except for the barrier means being a coined area. However, it would have been an obvious matter of design preference to form the barrier means including a coined area, since applicant has not disclosed that such structure solves any stated problem or is for any particular purpose and it appears that the invention would perform equally well with barrier means of Magnifico.

Claim 21 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Magnifico in view of Yamasaki (US 5,827,087).

Magnifico discloses substantially the claimed invention except for the stops on the outer legs. Yamasaki teaches the use of stops (2) on the outer legs to control the displacement of the inner legs (5). Therefore, it would have been obvious to a person of

ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to form stops on the outer legs of Magnifico, as taught by Yamasaki, to control the displacement of the inner legs.

Conclusion

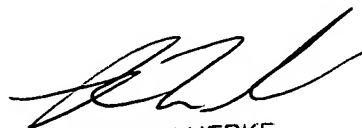
The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure. Jensen et al. (US 5,588,869) discloses an insulation striping connector (Figs.6A-7C).

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Felix O. Figueroa whose telephone number is (571) 272-2003. The examiner can normally be reached on Mon.-Fri., 10:00am-6:00pm.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Paula A. Bradley can be reached on (571) 272-2800 Ext. 33. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

ffr



RENEE LUEBKE
PRIMARY EXAMINER